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## Fort Wayne Women's Bureau

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# Fort Wayne Women's Bureau

**By Michael Kosar**



# Background

- Non-profit agency status in 1976 and received status in 1978
- Mission: advancing women through advocacy, education, and economic empowerment
- Provided services to more than 450,000 people in northeast Indiana



# Main Services

## REACT Rape Awareness Program

- Include 24/7 Rape Crisis Hotline
- Serves rape, sexual assault victims, and their friends/family

## Women's Enterprise

- Helps women to find a job, create own job, and create jobs for other women

## Transitions

- Dedicated to addicted women and their children
- Help addicted women through their addiction such as substance abuse



## Common Barriers

- Challenges especially when speaking about and educating on taboo topics
- Hard to reach individuals sometimes due to stigma of rape and sexual assault
- Since non-profit organization it is hard to be fully staffed in tough economic environment





# Overcoming Barriers

- Looking at new funding sources
- Ways to expand current fundraising events
- Once there are enough funds, hire more staff to assist victims of crime especially women



# Conclusion

- Although there are some barriers when reaching out to crime victims, the Fort Wayne Women's Bureau is continually improving to provide proper and adequate services for those victims in need.

